



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Agency Administration Building Solar Project Dedicated by Elected Officials, Public**

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) today dedicated its Administration Building Solar Project, one of the largest municipal solar projects in Sonoma County. In total, the solar project can generate an estimated 650,737 kilowatt hours each year, saving the Agency more than \$117,000 in annual energy costs. Over the 30-year lifetime of the current set of photovoltaic cells, the Agency will reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 6,200 tons, the equivalent of planting 1,700 trees, removing 1,200 cars or not driving 15 million miles on California's roadways.

"The administration building solar project is a win-win for Sonoma County and its water customers," said Paul Kelley, master of ceremonies and chairman of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. "By utilizing solar energy, the Agency is reducing its impact on the environment while reducing operation costs."

Guest speakers at the dedication included: Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; Paul Kelley, chairman, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; Thomas E. Bottorff, senior vice president – Regulatory Relations, PG&E; Daniel Shugar, president, PowerLight Corp.; Barbara Kaufman, director, Governor Schwarzenegger's San Francisco Regional Office; Miles Ferris, chairman, Water Advisory Committee; Scott Kirk, co-chair, Business Environmental Alliance of Sonoma County; and Representatives from the California State Senate and Assembly.

During the dedication the Agency received an enlarged check symbolic of the \$1,641,294 million rebate from PG&E's Self-Incentive Program, which represents roughly half of the total solar project cost of \$3.6 million. The rebate is based on a connected photovoltaic load of 470 kW.

"With the rebate from PG&E, we expect the project to pay for itself with energy savings in less than 20 years," said Randy Poole, Water Agency general manager and chief engineer. "Above and beyond the fiscal benefits, however, are the significant environmental benefits."

The Agency also received a joint resolution from Assemblymember's Patty Berg, Noreen Evans, Joe Nation and State Senators Wesley Chesbro and Carole Migden. The resolution commends the Agency for playing a vital role in improving the quality of life in its local community by utilizing solar power at its administration building.

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The solar project was designed and installed by PowerLight Corp. of Berkeley. PowerLight is a full-service company offering unique solar electric products and complete energy solutions.

In addition to the Administration Building Solar Project, several other photovoltaic projects are underway at the Agency, including ground-based applications at the Agency's Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District. The Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Project will consist of 3,408 solar modules generating 175 watts per module that will yield a total of 596 kWp. The estimated \$4,200,000 project cost will be offset by PG&E rebates that will yield a total net savings of more than \$350,000 over the thirty-year estimated life of the project. The project will supply nearly forty five percent of the daily power used at ATP. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and be completed in the winter of 2007.

The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District is executing a design-build photovoltaic power generation project on the five-acre site at the northeast corner of the Sonoma Valley Treatment Plant. The Project will consist of 5,496 solar modules generating 190 watts per module that will yield a total of 1,044 kWp. The estimated \$7,500,000 project cost will be offset by PG&E rebates that will yield a total net savings of more than \$900,000 (net present value) over the forty-year estimated life of the project. The project will supply nearly forty percent of the daily power used at the treatment plant. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and be complete in the spring of 2007.

The various solar projects are part of the Agency's Sustainability Initiative approved by its Board of Directors earlier this year. The Board and staff of the Agency take the concepts of sustainability seriously and have taken direct steps toward incorporating sustainable practices into its everyday work environment. For example, the Agency anticipates that more than 90 percent of its peak electric power demand will be supplied from renewable power sources in future years.

**Details of the Administration Building Solar Project include:**

- The Agency received a \$1.6 million rebate from PG&E's Self-Incentive Program which represents roughly half of the total project cost of \$3.6 million.
- PowerLight Corp. of Berkeley designed and installed the solar project.
- The solar project consists of multiple solar installations, which use silicon technology to convert sunlight directly into electricity.
- 2,752 solar photovoltaic panels have been installed on the administration building roof and ground-mounted power canopy.
- In total, the solar project can generate an estimated 650,737 kilowatt hours\* each year, saving the Agency more than \$117,000 in annual energy costs.
- The project covers a combined area of 37,017 square feet and generates enough electricity during the day to power nearly 500 homes.
- A kiosk in the front lobby of the administration building illustrates the real-time power output indicated on a meter.

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for the County of Sonoma. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*